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energy radiation such as [UV, x-rays,] gamma rays or neutrons.

7. An interface, adapted to couple a patient's eye to a surgical laser, the interface comprising:

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a. an attachment apparatus adapted to overlay the anterior surface of an eye and for stable engagement to the eye;

b. an applanation lens adapted to be mounted on the attachment apparatus, said applanation lens having an applanation surface configured to contact the eye, said surface being bounded by a plane and coupled to a delivery tip of the surgical laser such that the delivery tip is referenced to the plane; and

c. said applanation lens being formed of high purity SiO_2 , such that said applanation lens does not discolor or lose light transmittance when subjected to gamma radiation.

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11. The interface of claim 7, wherein said applanation lens is formed of an SiO_2 with a purity great enough to resist discoloration upon prolonged irradiation by high energy radiation such as [UV, x-rays,] gamma rays or neutrons.

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13. A method for applanating an anterior surface of a patient's eye and coupling the eye to a surgical laser, the method comprising the steps of:

a. providing an interface, the interface including a central orifice, and having top and bottom surfaces;

b. removably coupling a suction ring to the bottom surface of the interface; positioning the interface over an operative area of an eye, such that the suction ring comes into proximate contact with the surface of the eye;

c. applying a suction to the suction ring to thereby stabilize the position of the interface relative to the operative area of the eye;

d. positioning an applanation lens in proximate contact with the operative area of the eye, said applanation lens having an applanation surface configured to contact the eye said applanation lens being formed of high purity SiO_2 , such that said applanation lens does not discolor or lose light transmittance when subjected to gamma radiation; and

B3 e. coupling the applanation lens to the interface to thereby stabilize the position of the lens relative to the operative area of the eye.

B4 17. The method of claim 13, wherein said applanation lens is formed of an SiO₂ with a purity great enough to resist discoloration upon prolonged irradiation by high energy radiation such as [UV, x-rays,] gamma rays or neutrons.